

MedNotes

A monthly newsletter featuring news for the faculty and staff of the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Columbia.

July 2020 -- Volume 1, Issue 4

Announcements

Commitment to Diversity and Equity

In last month's newsletter, it was mentioned that specific actions were being developed to help contribute constructively to building a more diverse, inclusive and equitable culture within our school and our community. On June 11, Dean Hall released a [Statement on Racism and Inequity](#) that outlined eight initial action items.

As a first-step toward starting an open conversation about race and inequality, all first- and second-year medical students are being given access to "[Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-First Century](#)" by Dorothy Roberts.

Access to digital copies of the book was made possible by [a generous gift from Chris Jarvis](#), a member of our Dean's Executive Advisory Council. Jarvis, a bestselling author and entrepreneur, also will be donating a portion of the proceeds from his new book "[Giraffe Money: See Better Paths to Elevated Wealth](#)" to the School of Medicine to support scholarships for underrepresented students.

COVID-19 Updates

- The university has begun a four-phase return to work plan to bring faculty and staff back to campus. Phase 2 began on June 22, and phase 3 begins July 13. More details are available on the the [Return to Work Plan webpage](#).
- The university also is encouraging everyone returning to campus to be tested for COVID-19. Visit the [UofSC Coronavirus landing page](#) for current information regarding testing.



Alumni leading COVID-19 efforts at Duke Health

Jason Thieling, M.D., a member of the class of 2006, and Dan Gilstrap, M.D., a member of the class of 2007, were classmates at the UofSC School of Medicine Columbia. Years later, they find themselves as colleagues working together at Duke Health. More significantly, as the number of positive coronavirus cases continue to rise, their roles have placed them on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more.](#)

News



Ultrasound Institute pioneers new cardiothoracic assessment tool

A new cardiothoracic assessment tool, which was pioneered at the School of Medicine, has been released. The KOSMOS platform combines a hand-held ultrasound device, an electronic stethoscope and an EKG, all tied together with artificial intelligence. The system, which is produced by EchoNous, received FDA approval earlier this spring. [Read more.](#)

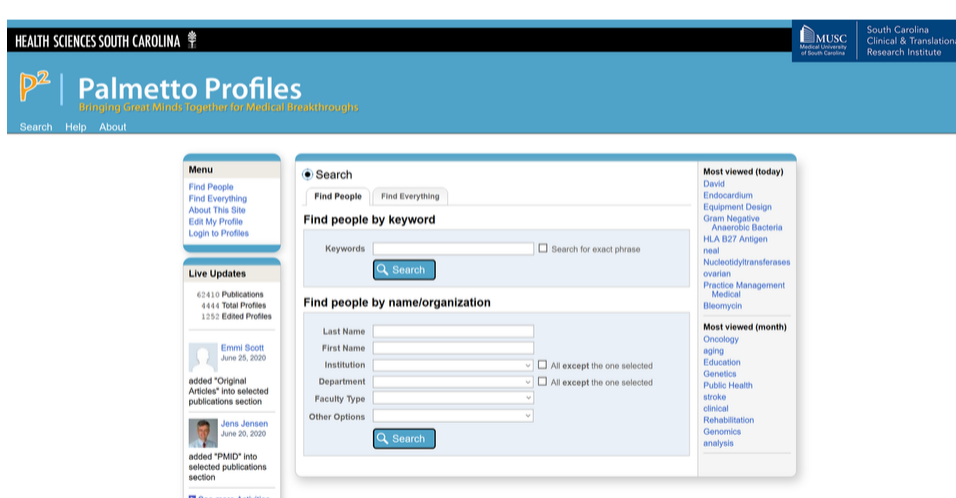
Orr named assistant dean of continuous professional development and strategic affairs

Matt Orr, Ph.D., has been named as the new assistant dean of continuous professional development and strategic affairs, effective July 1, 2020. Orr takes over following the retirement of Morris Blachman, Ph.D. Orr has been a faculty member in the School of Medicine since 2008. [Read more.](#)

Nurse Anesthesia Program approved to offer DNAP degree

In June, the nurse anesthesia program received final approval to shift to a Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice degree. The program will be accepting applications for the first class of DNAP students in August, and the class will matriculate in May 2021.

Resources



New research networking tool, Palmetto Profiles, now live

Palmetto Profiles is a research networking and expertise tool to help connect researchers to others with the expertise they may need. It not only shows traditional directory information, but also illustrates how each person is connected to others in the broad research community. This tool is currently used by researchers at MUSC and Clemson.

Through a collaborative effort between the Research Center for Transforming Health and the Department of Research and Graduate Education, Palmetto Profiles now includes all UofSC School of Medicine faculty. Use of this tool will enhance the visibility of faculty on search engines, and supports the identification of potential collaborators, researchers, experts, and mentors. All profiles have been auto-populated with your departmental information, including your publications, using Medline and PubMed.

[We encourage everyone to log in, using your UofSC main campus credentials, to review, edit, and expand your profiles today!](#)

Congratulations

- Jack Goldsmith, Ph.D.**, was promoted to clinical professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy.
- Souvik Sen, M.D.**, was reappointed as a SmartState Endowed Chair for the Department of Neurology.
- Helmut Albrecht, M.D.**, was reappointed as the Heyward Gibbes Distinguished Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine.

If you would like to submit an item to be included in the next edition of MedNotes, please email SOM Communications Manager Alyssa Yancey at Alyssa.Yancey@uscmed.sc.edu.

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